

Highlights of 79th Legislative Session Immunization Issues

Policy Updates:

1. HB 1316-New Vaccine Requirements for Child-Care Attendance

- Effective September 1, 2005, House Bill (HB) 1316 will become law. This law requires that children attending child-care facilities be vaccinated against invasive pneumococcal and hepatitis A diseases. This change will effect children attending pre-kindergarten, Head Start, or other early childhood programs. The Department of State Health Services (DSHS) will revise rules related to these immunization requirements at a later date, however, the statute is effective September 1, 2005.

2. Hepatitis A Vaccine

- Effective August 1, 2005, hepatitis A vaccine will be a routinely recommended vaccine for all children in Texas two years through 18 years of age.

3. Pneumococcal Conjugate Vaccine (PCV7)

- Effective August 1, 2005, all TVFC-eligible children who are two months through fifty nine months of age and who attend child-care or pre-kindergarten programs may receive PCV7 from any provider participating in the TVFC and do not need to be referred to a FQHC or RHC.

4. High-Risk Children Pneumococcal Polysaccharide Vaccine (PPV23)

- The PCV7 pneumococcal conjugate vaccine is required for all children ages 2 months to 59 months of age attending child-care facilities. In addition, to PCV7, children in certain high-risk groups aged two years and older are also required to have pneumococcal polysaccharide vaccine (PPV23). PPV23 vaccine is available through the TVFC program only for high-risk children who are two years through 18 years of age.

Pursuant to the Human Resource Code §42.043(b), each child at an appropriate age shall be immunized against diphtheria, tetanus, poliomyelitis, mumps, rubella, rubeola, **invasive pneumococcal** and **hepatitis A** disease and against any other communicable disease as recommended by the DSHS. Additionally, DSHS requires vaccination against pertussis, *Haemophilus influenzae* type b, varicella, and hepatitis B. Although the law requires that the immunizations must be administered to the child on the date of first entry into the child-care facility, a child may be provisionally admitted if the required immunizations have begun and are completed as rapidly as medically feasible.

For more information contact Jack Sims, Immunization Branch Manager at Jack.Sims@dshs.state.tx.us. Health Services Regions and Local Health Departments may be available for assistance with the implementation of HB 1316. These resources can be found at <http://www.dshs.state.tx.us/regions/default.shtm>.